

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2445 without my signature.

While I recognize the importance of learning a foreign language, this bill would create a “State” Seal of Biliteracy for which there would be no uniform, statewide standards to determine if a student had earned this recognition. Without uniform, consistent standards, employers and college admission counselors in search of qualified candidates would not be able to rely on the State Seal as a valid indicator of bilingual proficiency.

Instead, standards of achievement would be set locally and would vary from district to district. As a result, the “State” Seal would not signify anything substantial. Local districts that would like to offer their students a seal of recognition based on their own standards may do so under current law without this bill.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,